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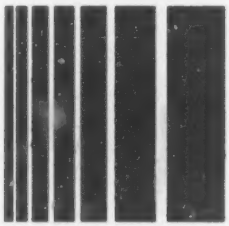
The Population of Connecticut: A Decade of Change, 1970-1980



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The Population of Connecticut: A Decade of Change, 1970-1980

*by William H. Groff**

Introduction

Population growth in Connecticut experienced a sharp reversal during the 1970's. Between 1970 and 1980 the average annual rate of population increase in Connecticut was only .25 percent compared to a 1.9 percent rate of increase in the 1960's. Any increase in the population of any geographical area is the direct result of the combined effect of two factors: net migration, (the differences between people moving into and out of a geographical area); and natural increase (the differences between the number of births and deaths in the geographical area). The lower rate of population increase during the 1970's was a result of both lower rates of natural increase and a net outmigration of Connecticut residents. Only 129,991 persons were added to Connecticut's population as a result of natural increase between 1970 and 1980 compared to 294,911 persons during the previous decade. During the 1960's, approximately 215,586 persons were added to the state's population as a result of a net inmigration compared to a net outmigration of approximately 54,632 persons during the 1970's. The combined effect of these two factors resulted in over 400,000 fewer persons being added to our population between 1970 and 1980 than during the previous decade. Increases in population tended to be associated with size of place. Small and

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medium sized towns experienced population growth while Connecticut's eight largest towns experienced a net loss of population.

The purpose of this report, the first in a series of reports which will describe the size, distribution and characteristics of Connecticut's population enumerated in the 1980 Census of Population, is to analyze the changes in population size and distribution during the 1970's. It parallels reports published in 1961 and 1973 and provides information on trends over the decade with some comparisons of Connecticut's population change to changes in the United States as a whole, and to changes in the other New England states.[1]

THE POPULATION OF CONNECTICUT

Connecticut had the largest population in its history, 3,107,576 on April 1, 1980, despite the lower rate of increase. Table 1 shows the population size and the average rate of increase for the United States and Connecticut since 1790 when the first Census of Population was taken. During the first century (1790-1890) the average annual rate of growth for Connecticut was lower than that for the United States as a whole reflecting the western expansion of the country's frontier. As we shifted from an agricultural economy to an industrial economy and open spaces in the West were settled, many new migrants to the country settled in the more industrialized urban areas in the East. By 1900, Connecticut's rate of growth first surpassed that of the country as a whole. During the 20th century, Connecticut experienced a rate of population increase greater than that of the United States as a whole with two notable exceptions: the decades of the 1930's and the 1970's. Connecticut's average annual rate of growth was only slightly lower than that of the United States during the depression years but was approximtely 4 times slower during the past decade. Historically, Connecticut's rate of natural increase has been lower than that of the United States as a whole, but was offset by a higher net inmigration giving the state a higher rate of population increase. Thus, the reversal of the migration pattern was the most important factor in the lower rates of increase during the 1970's.

Connecticut's lower average annual rate of increase during the past decade affected its relative position among the 50 states on a number of population measurements. At the time of the 1970 census, Connecticut ranked 11th among the 50 states for rate of growth compared to its 45th ranking in 1980. Connecticut also dropped one position in the ranking of states by population size from 24th in 1970 to 25th in 1980.

Table 2 provides a basis for comparing Connecticut to the other states in the Northeast region. Only the three northernmost states in the New England area experienced greater rates of increase in the 1970's than during

Table 1. Population Change and Average Annual Rate of Increase for the United States and Connecticut: 1790-1980.

Year	United States		Connecticut	
	Population	Rate of Increase	Population	Annual Rate of Increase
1790	3,929,214	--	237,946	--
1800	5,308,483	3.5	251,002	0.6
1810	7,239,881	3.6	261,942	0.4
1820	9,638,453	3.3	275,248	0.5
1830	12,866,020	3.4	297,675	0.8
1840	17,069,453	3.3	309,978	0.4
1850	23,191,876	3.6	370,792	2.0
1860	31,443,321	3.6	460,147	2.4
1870	38,558,371	2.7	537,454	1.7
1880	50,189,209	2.6	622,700	1.6
1890	62,979,766	2.6	746,258	2.0
1900	76,212,168	2.1	908,420	2.2
1910	92,228,496	2.1	1,114,756	2.3
1920	106,021,537	1.5	1,380,631	2.4
1930	123,202,624	1.6	1,606,903	1.6
1940	132,164,569	0.7	1,709,242	0.6
1950	151,325,798	1.5	2,007,280	1.7
1960	179,323,175	1.9	2,535,234	2.6
1970	203,184,772	1.3	3,032,217	1.9
1980	226,505,825	1.1	3,107,576	0.25

the 1960's with Maine experiencing the greatest increases. Overall, both the New England states and the Northeast region experienced significantly lower rates of increase during the past decade. In fact, two states, Rhode Island and New York, were the only states in the United States to actually lose population during the decade. Connecticut's decline in the rate of population increase was the highest among the 9 states in the Northeast. In general, it appears that the more urbanized states with the highest population density in the region either lost population or had a significantly lower rate of increase while the more rural states had higher rates of increase than during the previous decade. These trends reflect the general movement of population out of the more heavily concentrated areas toward less densely populated rural areas. The declines in the rate of growth for the region may also be associated with the movement of population growth toward the South and West.[2]

Population Density

Population density, the number of persons per square mile of geographical area, is a measurement of the relationship between land area and population size. The combination of Connecticut's small land area and its relatively large population make it the fourth most densely populated state in the country. Only New Jersey with a density of 979 persons per square mile, Rhode Island with a density of 903 persons, and Massachusetts with a density of 733 persons have population densities greater than that of Connecticut. The significance of these density figures can be seen when they are compared to the density of 64 persons per square mile for the United States as a whole. Connecticut's population density has increased consistently since 1920 when there were 286 persons per square mile of land. However, during the most recent decade density only increased by approximately 14 persons per square mile as compared to an increase of approximately 117 persons during the 1970's.[3]

A high population density exerts greater pressures on the environment and contributes to higher costs for municipal services and environmental protection. Thus, the slower rate of population increase and the corresponding lower increases in population density may relieve environmental pressures.

Connecticut's people are not uniformly distributed throughout the state but are highly concentrated in two contiguous areas: along the Long Island Sound from the southeastern border of New York State to New Haven County; and north along the Connecticut River Valley from the Long Island Sound to the Massachusetts border. The three counties in the most densely populated area of the state, Fairfield, Hartford, and New Haven, all had population densities of over 1000 persons per square mile compared to the relatively low densities in Litchfield County in the northwestern section of the state and the four counties which comprise the eastern part of the state (Table 3). Thirty-six towns within the densely populated three-county-area had population densities of over 1000 persons per square mile with five of these towns having densities of greater than 5000 persons per square mile (Table 7). The towns of Bridgeport with a density of 8965 persons, Hartford with a density of 7929 persons, and New Haven with a density of 6853 persons were the most densely populated towns in the state (Figure 4).

Many areas of the state have densities below that of the density figure for the country as a whole. Most of these areas are located in the northwestern corner or in the eastern third of the state. Only four towns (New London, 5341; Vernon, 1528; Norwich, 1458; and Groton, 1244) had population densities of over 1000 persons while 29 towns had densities of less than 100 in this area. The town of Union with a density of 18.7 persons per square mile was the least densely populated town in the state.

THE POPULATION OF CONNECTICUT COUNTIES

The state is divided into eight counties containing 169 towns. County subdivisions are relatively minor civil divisions having little administrative authority when compared to counties outside the New England area, but are used by the Cooperative Extension Service as administrative units. All eight counties in Connecticut experienced a decline in their rate of growth during the 1970's (Table 3). Hartford, the largest county, lost population during the decade, declining from a population size of 816,737 in 1970 to 807,766 in 1980. There is a close correlation between the rank size of counties and rate of population increase. Those counties with the smallest population size in 1970 grew at a faster rate than the state as a whole. Only Middlesex County which ranked sixth in population size but had the largest percentage increase in population and Windham which ranked last in population size and third in percentage increase, deviate from an indirect correlation.

Middlesex County, with a 12.2 percent increase in population in the 1970's, had the highest rate of increase followed by Tolland County with a 11.0 percent increase, and Windham County with a 9.2 percent increase. The largest counties, despite lower rates of increase, showed the highest numerical increases while Tolland and Windham Counties respectively had the smallest numerical increases. Population changes over the decade numerically ranged from a high increase of 1638 persons in New Haven County to a loss of 8971 persons in Hartford County. In general the range of population increase was much lower for the 1970's than during the previous decade.

Sources of Population Increase

Every county gained population over the decade through natural increase but only the four smallest counties gained population through a net inmigration (Table 4). As noted earlier, natural increase is a measure of the difference between births and deaths in a geographical area. Connecticut's provisional birth rate for 1980 was 12.0 births per thousand population, the lowest rate recorded in the history of the state.[4] Its death rate of 8.4 deaths per thousand population was also the lowest, as was the resulting rate of natural increase — 3.6 persons per thousand population. In comparison, the corresponding rates for the United States as a whole were 15.3 births per thousand population, 8.8 deaths per thousand population, and a natural increase of 6.5 persons per thousand population.

The county pattern of population increase resulting from net migration is interesting and indicates a continuing change in the patterns of population distribution within the state.[5] The more rural counties with the lowest population density experienced an increase in population as a result of net inmigration while the more urban counties either lost population or had natural increases at least partly offset by a net outmigration. Thus, although the population of the state is still concentrated in Fairfield, New

Haven, and Hartford counties, growth rates in these counties are lower for the second straight decade while the northwestern and eastern counties are growing at a faster rate. These changes suggest that the outmigration of people from the urban areas of the state is continuing and that there is a corresponding trend toward more rapid growth in the more rural areas.

CONNECTICUT TOWNS

Although Connecticut is a relatively densely populated state, there are large variations in population size and density among its 169 towns. Eighty-seven towns contained fewer than 10,000 inhabitants and 51 of these towns contained fewer than 5000 persons (Table 7). The town of Union in Tolland County with 546 inhabitants has the smallest population while the town of Bridgeport with 142,546 inhabitants is now the largest town in the state. Eighteen towns have more than 50,000 inhabitants; five towns are over 100,000.

Table 5 shows the distribution of towns by size categories since 1950. Population growth and changes in the patterns of net migration are clearly demonstrated by the marked decline in the proportion of smaller towns during the 30 year period. Smaller towns of less than 5000 population declined from approximately 60 percent of the towns in 1950 to approximately 30 percent in 1980. The proportion of larger towns over 25,000 inhabitants increased from approximately 14 percent in 1950 to 21 percent in 1980 but most of this change occurred during the first two decades. Middle-sized towns from 5000 to 25,000 inhabitants increased proportionally from approximately 37 percent in 1950 to nearly 50 percent in 1980 with approximately 7 percent of the change occurring during the last decade.

During the 1970's nine of the largest ten towns lost population and only six of the 18 towns in the largest two size categories gained population. This contrasts to the fact that only one of the 51 towns in the two smallest size categories lost population over the same period.

Figure 2 shows the distribution of the proportional changes in the population increases of towns during the 1970's. Figure 1 gives town and county names and can be used as a guide in identifying towns for Figures 2, 3 and 4. Figure 2 clearly shows that most of the towns which lost population during the decade are located in the densely populated corridor from the southwest along the Long Island Sound to the Connecticut River valley and north through New Haven and Hartford counties to the Massachusetts border. The towns with the largest proportional gains tended to border this

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Table 2: Population of the United States, New England and the Northeastern States, 1960-1980.

Area	Population			Percent Change	
	1980	1970	1960	1970-80	1960-70
UNITED STATES	226,504,825	203,184,772	179,323,175	11.4	13.3
New England	12,348,493	11,847,186	10,509,367	4.2	12.7
Maine	1,124,660	993,663	969,265	13.2	2.5
New Hampshire	920,610	737,681	606,921	24.8	21.5
Vermont	511,456	494,732	389,881	15.0	14.1
Massachusetts	5,737,037	5,689,170	5,148,578	.8	10.5
Rhode Island	947,154	949,723	859,488	-.3	10.5
CONNECTICUT	3,107,576	3,032,217	2,535,234	2.5	19.6
New York	17,557,228	18,190,740	16,782,304	-3.8	8.4
New Jersey	7,364,158	7,168,164	6,066,782	2.7	18.2
Pennsylvania	11,866,728	11,793,909	11,319,366	.6	4.2

Table 3: Population of Counties, Connecticut, 1960-1980.

Area	Population			Percent Change		1980 Population Density Per Square Mile of Land
	1980	1970	1960	1970-80	1960-70	
CONNECTICUT	3,107,576	3,032,217	2,535,234	2.5	19.6	638.0
Fairfield	807,143	792,814	653,589	1.8	21.3	1,288.3
Hartford	807,766	816,737	689,555	-1.1	18.4	1,092.9
Litchfield	156,769	144,091	119,856	8.8	20.2	168.5
Middlesex	129,017	115,018	88,865	12.2	29.2	347.3
New Haven	761,337	744,948	660,315	2.2	12.8	1,259.7
New London	238,409	230,654	185,745	3.4	24.0	357.2
Tolland	114,823	103,440	68,737	11.0	50.5	276.2
Windham	92,312	84,515	68,572	9.2	23.3	179.0

Table 4: Increases in Population by Source for Counties, Connecticut, 1960-1980.

Area	Population Increase		Source of Increase 1970-1980		Migration Rate Per 1000 Persons	
	1970-1980	1960-1970	Natural Increase	Migration	1970-1980	1960-1970
CONNECTICUT	75,359	496,475	129,991	-54,632	-18.0	85.0
Fairfield	14,329	139,225	29,325	-14,996	-18.9	111.3
Hartford	-8,971	127,182	33,945	-42,916	-52.6	65.9
Litchfield	12,678	24,235	3,651	9,027	62.6	120.8
Middlesex	13,999	26,153	5,102	8,897	77.4	174.0
New Haven	16,389	84,633	28,087	-11,698	-15.7	31.1
New London	7,755	44,909	16,450	- 8,695	-37.7	81.3
Tolland	11,383	34,703	8,634	2,749	26.6	331.6
Windham	7,797	15,943	4,797	3,000	35.5	132.8

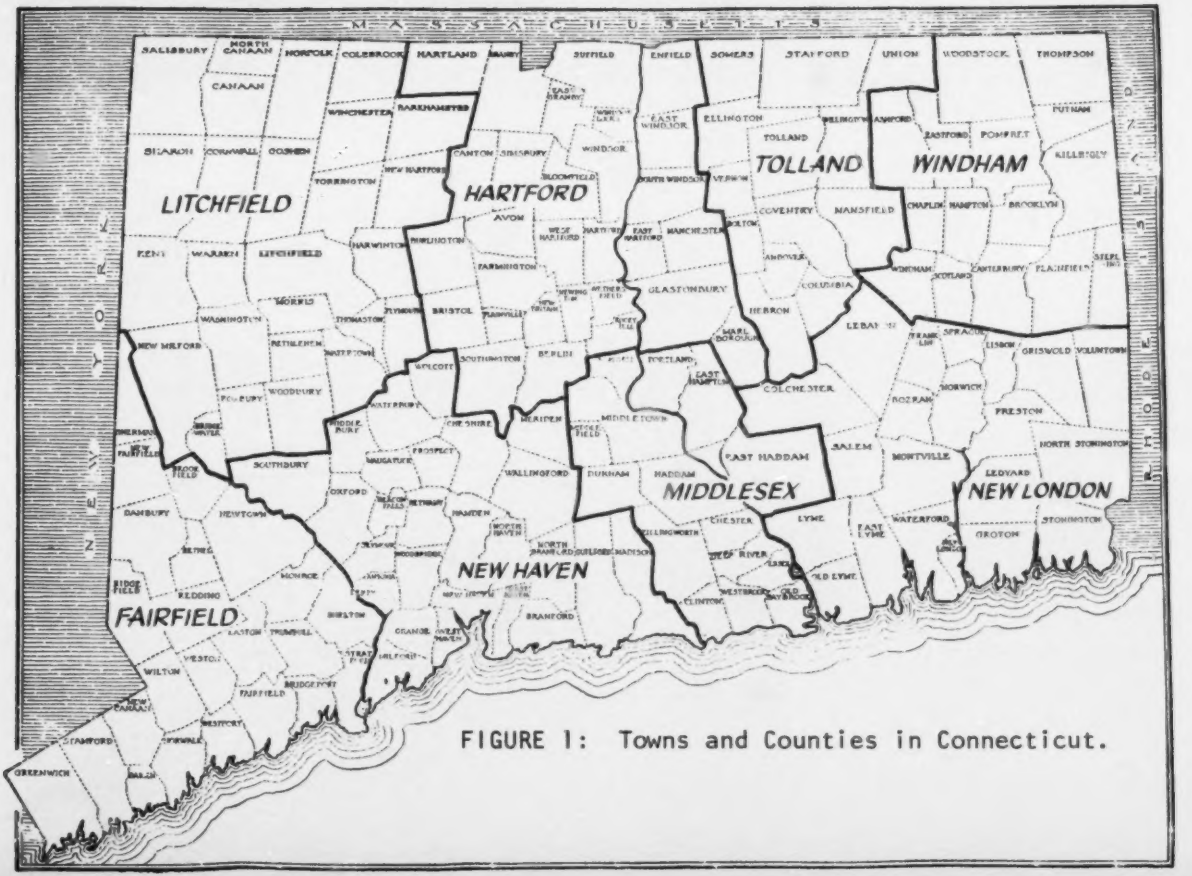

FIGURE 1: Towns and Counties in Connecticut.

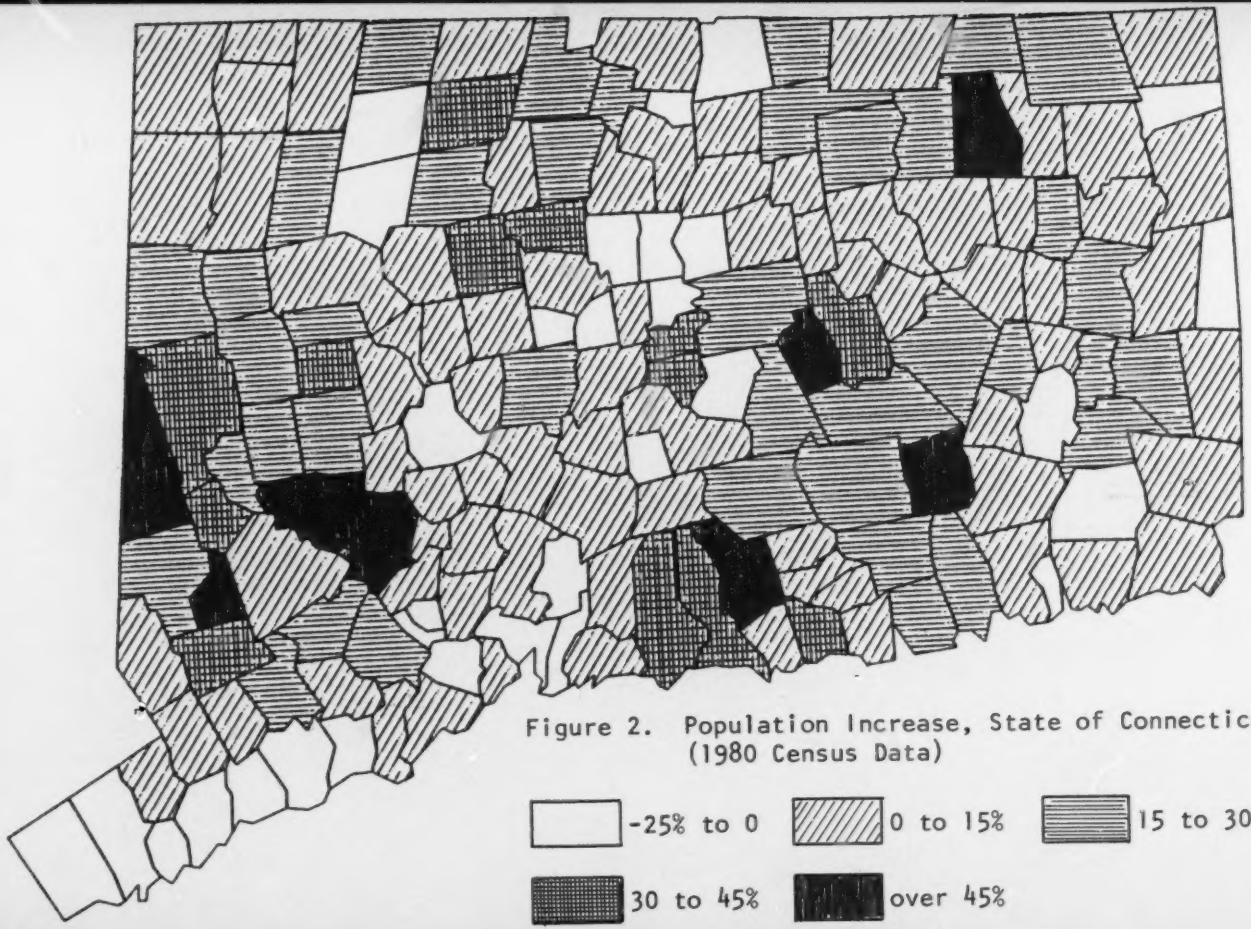

Figure 2. Population Increase, State of Connecticut (1980 Census Data)

more densely populated corridor while towns on the eastern border and in the northwestern corner of the state also experienced population losses or lower growth rates.

Table 6 provides a rank order of Connecticut towns by population size for each decade since 1950. Although the rank order of most towns has remained relatively consistent over the past 30 years, this table does show the effect of population change on the rankings of specific towns. Bridgeport, which ranked third in size in 1950, now has the largest population in the state replacing the town of Hartford. Both Bridgeport and Hartford lost population during the 1970's but Bridgeport's loss was less than that of Hartford resulting in the change in rankings. Danbury, shifting from 18th in 1950 to 9th in 1980, and Trumbull (51st to 25th) experienced the most significant changes in ranking among the larger towns in the state. The greatest gains in rank were experienced by the towns of New Fairfield (up 66 places), Ledyard (up 58 places) and Brookfield (up 55 places). The towns of Putnam (down 44 places), Salisbury (down 43 places) and Winchester (down 40 places) experienced the largest decreases in rank because they either lost population or gained fewer inhabitants since 1950.

Detailed information on population size, population change and the source of these changes for towns in Connecticut is shown in Table 7. Population change within the 169 towns ranged from an increase of 80 percent in the town of Southbury in New Haven County to a 19.2 percent decrease in the population of Windsor Locks in Hartford County. Thirty towns lost population between 1970 and 1980 compared to only five towns during the previous decade. Only 5 towns, New Fairfield, Sherman, Marlborough, Southbury, and Salem, experienced population growth rates of over 50 percent compared to 39 towns during the 1960's. The overall pattern of population clearly follows the pattern of more widespread dispersal described earlier (Figure 2).

Turning to the sources of population increase, the significance of migration is evident. Fifty towns experienced a net outmigration of population during the decade compared to 13 in the 1960's. outmigration rates ranged from a high of -219.8 per 1000 1970 population in the town of Windsor Locks to a low of -0.4 in Coventry. Migration rates in towns which experienced a net inmigration ranged from a rate of 0.4 in Greenwich to 565.5 in Sherman, the town with the highest rate of net inmigration.

Figure 3 shows the effect of migration on the population increases in the 169 towns during the 1970's. Generally, towns in Litchfield and northern Fairfield County, along the northwestern border with New York, experienced higher rates of net inmigration while towns in the densely populated areas experienced a net outmigration or lower rates of inmigration. Towns on the eastern border with Rhode Island had lower migration rates than the towns adjacent to them and closer to the densely populated corridor. The southeastern corner of the state which is heavily defense in-

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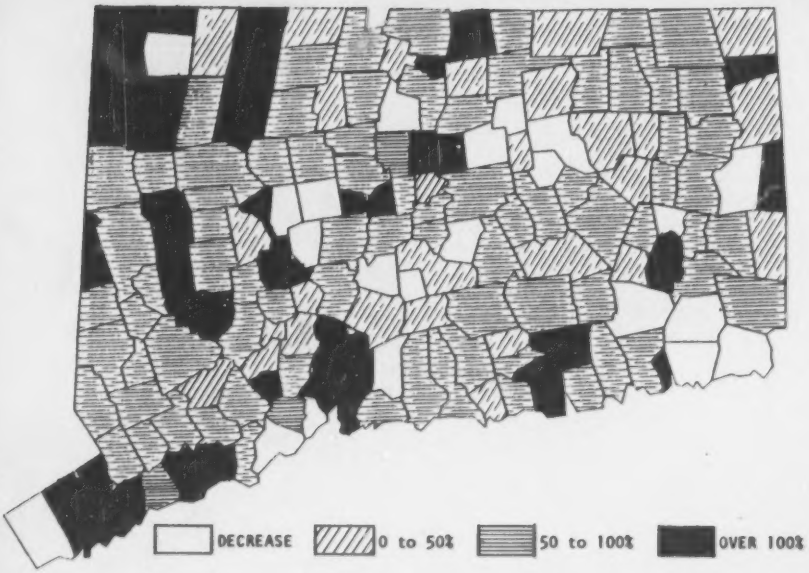

Figure 3. Population Increase Due to Migration, State of Connecticut (1980 Census Data).

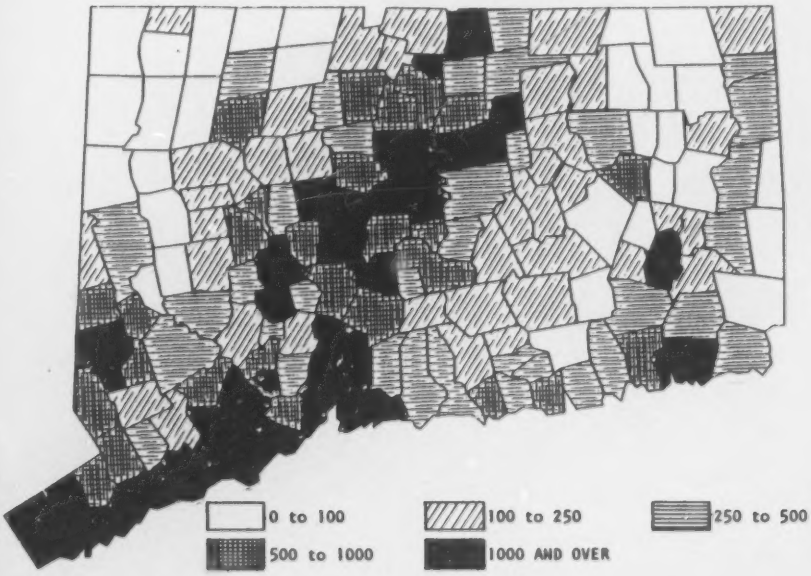

Figure 4. Population Density, State of Connecticut (1980 Census Data)

Table 5: Number and Percent of Towns by Size, Connecticut, 1950-1980.

Size	1980		1970		1960		1950	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
100,000+	5	3.0	5	3.0	4	2.4	4	2.4
50,000-99,999	13	7.7	11	6.5	6	3.6	2	1.2
25,000 - 49,999	18	10.7	18	10.7	16	9.5	17	10.0
10,000 - 24,999	46	27.2	42	24.9	33	19.5	21	12.4
5,000 - 9,999	36	21.3	30	17.8	33	19.5	25	14.8
2,500 - 4,999	27	16.0	34	20.1	36	21.3	34	20.1
0 - 2,499	24	14.2	29	17.1	41	24.3	66	39.1

Table 6: Rank Order of Towns by Population Size, Connecticut, 1950-1980.[1/]

Town and Rank 1980	Rank 1970	Rank 1960	Rank 1950	Town and Rank 1980	Rank 1970	Rank 1960	Rank 1950
1. Bridgeport	2	2	3	61. Berlin	60	55	56
2. Hartford	1	1	1	62. Rocky Hill	72	75	67
3. New Haven	3	3	2	63. Killingly	61	54	43
4. Waterbury	5	4	4	64. Southbury	88	91	82
5. Stamford	4	5	5	65. Madison	71	98	91
6. Norwalk	7	7	6	66. Monroe	67	81	94
7. New Britain	6	6	6	67. East Lyme	70	76	83
8. West Hartford	8	8	8	68. Ledyard	57	88	126
9. Danbury	15	19	18	69. Seymour	64	59	54
10. Greenwich	9	9	10	70. Orange	63	64	92
11. Bristol	13	12	12	71. Wolcott	66	62	85
12. Meriden	12	10	9	72. Brookfield	78	108	127
13. Fairfield	11	11	17	73. Plainfield	69	63	52
14. West Haven	14	15	15	74. Derby	65	51	41
15. East Hartford	10	14	19	75. Windsor Locks	56	52	65
16. Hamden	18	18	20	76. North Branford	74	79	116
17. Milford	16	17	23	77. New Fairfield	97	110	143
18. Stratford	17	13	14	78. Avon	85	90	88
19. Manchester	19	16	13	79. Clinton	76	100	105
20. Enfield	20	23	29	80. Winchester	71	57	40
21. Groton	22	25	24	81. Plymouth	75	61	58
22. Middletown	23	22	21	82. Cromwell	94	77	78
23. Norwich	21	20	11	83. East Windsor	83	72	73
24. Southington	28	27	30	84. Ellington	90	86	90
25. Trumbull	27	31	51	85. Tolland	87	121	128
26. Wallingford	24	26	27	86. Suffield	81	78	72
27. Shelton	31	36	31	87. Old Saybrook	84	89	104
28. Torrington	25	24	22	88. Stafford	80	74	59
29. New London	26	21	16	89. Griswold	89	80	63
30. Newington	33	37	48	90. Coventry	86	82	80

31. Vernon	30	39	42	91. Putnam	82	65	47
32. Naugatuck	35	33	26	92. East Hampton	96	87	81
33. Wethersfield	32	30	32	93. Somers	99	104	100
34. Westport	29	29	37	94. Portland	79	73	66
35. Windsor	36	34	34	95. Weston	93	102	117
36. East Haven	34	28	33	96. Thompson	92	84	64
37. Glastonbury	39	45	50	97. Granby	104	94	96
38. Branford	40	40	38	98. Colchester	101	97	93
39. North Haven	37	41	46	99. Woodbridge	91	92	95
40. Cheshire	44	49	60	100. Canton	100	96	84
41. Simsbury	48	58	74	101. Litchfield	95	83	70
42. Windham	43	38	28	102. Redding	106	109	114
43. Mansfield	42	44	44	103. Woodbury	105	103	102
44. Ridgefield	47	68	77	104. Prospect	102	99	120
45. Watertown	45	43	39	105. Oxford	114	114	113
46. New Milford	58	66	61	106. Haddam	109	106	99
47. Newtown	51	53	55	107. Thomaston	103	85	71
48. Ansonia	38	32	25	108. Old Lyme	108	118	111
49. Darien	41	35	36	109. Middlebury	107	95	118
50. Bloomfield	46	47	62	110. Easton	111	107	110
51. New Canaan	49	48	53	111. Brooklyn	107	112	97
52. Waterford	50	42	49	112. Burlington	118	125	123
53. Guilford	68	70	69	113. East Haddam	112	105	103
54. South Windsor	55	60	79	114. Hebron	122	142	138
55. Montville	54	71	75	115. Westbrook	121	131	131
56. Farmington	59	56	57	116. Durham	113	117	124
57. Plainville	52	50	45	117. Woodstock	116	116	108
58. Stonington	53	46	35	118. Essex	110	101	86
59. Bethel	73	67	68	119. Harwington	115	111	122
60. Wilton	62	69	76	120. New Hartford	119	119	106

Table 6: Rank Order of Towns by Population Size, Connecticut, 1950-1980[1/] (Continued).

Town and Rank 1980	Rank 1970	Rank 1960	Rank 1950	Town and Rank 1980	Rank 1970	Rank 1960	Rank 1950
121. Lebanon	123	130	129	146. Kent	148	144	133
122. Marlborough	135	139	149	147. Salem	155	160	162
123. Willington	124	137	132	148. Sherman	154	163	166
124. Preston	128	93	125	149. Norfolk	145	141	130
125. Bethany	120	132	139	150. Bozrah	147	145	144
126. North Stonington	125	138	134	151. Andover	144	143	145
127. East Granby	131	129	136	152. Morris	152	152	154
128. Deep River	127	120	101	153. Lyme	153	153	151
129. Beacon Falls	130	123	112	154. Chaplin	151	151	157
130. Killingworth	142	154	160	155. Sterling	150	147	140
131. Bolton	126	122	142	156. Goshen	158	150	148
132. Salisbury	129	113	89	157. Voluntown	156	157	153
133. Middlefield	117	115	118	158. Franklin	157	158	156
13 . Washington	133	126	109	159. Bridgewater	160	162	161
135. Canterbury	139	140	137	160. Roxbury	161	161	155
136. Columbia	132	133	135	161. Hartland	159	156	165
137. Lisbon	138	136	141	162. Hampton	163	159	159
138. Ashford	143	149	152	163. Cornwall	162	155	150
139. North Canaan	134	124	98	164. Colebrook	165	164	164
140. Chester	136	127	119	165. Scotland	164	167	167
141. Sprague	137	128	107	166. Eastford	167	166	163
142. Barkhamsted	146	148	147	167. Warren	168	168	168
143. Pomfret	140	134	115	168. Canaan	166	165	158
144. Sharon	141	135	121	169. Union	169	169	169
145. Bethlehem	149	146	146				

[1/] Population size for 1960 included institutional populations for the first time.

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980.

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980 Migration Rate[1]	1980 Population Density[2]
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration		
CONNECTICUT	3,107,576	3,032,217	75,359	2.5	129,991	-54,632	-18.0	638.0
FAIRFIELD COUNTY Total	807,143	792,814	14,329	1.8	29,325	-14,996	-18.9	1288.3
Bethel	16,004	10,945	5,059	46.2	1,097	3,962	362.0	947.0
Bridgeport	142,546	156,542	-13,996	-8.9	9,686	-23,682	-151.3	8965.0
Brookfield	12,872	9,688	3,184	32.9	760	2,424	250.2	656.7
Danbury	60,470	50,781	9,689	19.1	3,664	6,025	118.6	1439.8
Darien	18,892	20,336	-1,444	7.1	82	-1,526	-75.0	1464.5
Easton	5,962	4,885	1,077	22.0	6	1,071	219.2	216.8
Fairfield	54,849	59,578	-1,638	-2.9	17	-1,655	-29.3	1840.6
Greenwich	59,578	59,755	-177	-0.3	-199	22	0.4	1259.6
Monroe	14,010	12.047	1,963	16.3	944	1,019	84.6	534.7
New Canaan	17,931	17,451	480	2.8	-18	498	28.5	779.6
New Fairfield	11,260	6,991	4,269	61.1	608	3,661	523.7	541.3
Newtown	19,107	16,942	2,165	12.8	1,006	1,159	68.4	326.6
Norwalk	77,767	79,288	-1,521	-1.9	4,146	-5,685	-71.7	3381.2
Redding	7,272	5,590	1,682	30.1	300	1,382	247.2	228.7
Ridgefield	20,120	18,188	1,932	10.6	872	1,060	58.3	579.8
Shelton	31,314	27,165	4,149	15.3	1,518	2,631	96.9	1026.7
Sherman	2,281	1,459	822	56.3	-3	825	565.5	103.7
Stamford	102,453	108,798	-6,345	-5.8	4,586	-10,931	-100.4	2746.7
Stratford	50,541	49,775	776	1.5	101	665	13.4	2921.5
Trumbull	32,989	31,394	1,595	5.1	104	1,491	47.5	1415.8
Weston	8,284	7,417	867	11.7	136	731	98.6	416.3
Westport	25,290	27,318	-2,028	-7.4	-123	-1,905	-69.7	1270.9
Wilton	13,572	15,351	1,779	13.1	17	1,762	129.8	581.5

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980 (Continued).

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980 Migration Rate[1]	1980 Population Density[2]
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration		
HARTFORD COUNTY Total	807,766	816,737	-8,971	-1.1	33,945	-42,916	-52.5	1092.9
Avon	11,201	8,352	2,849	34.1	193	2,656	318.0	476.6
Berlin	15,121	14,149	972	6.9	105	867	61.3	564.2
Bloomfield	13,301	18,608	307	1.7	436	-129	-7.0	798.6
Bristol	57,370	55,487	1,883	3.4	3,748	-1,865	-33.6	2173.1
Burlington	5,660	4,070	1,590	39.1	383	1,207	296.6	188.7
Canton	7,635	6,868	767	11.2	520	247	36.0	310.4
East Granby	4,102	3,532	570	16.1	306	264	74.7	235.8
East Hartford	52,563	57,583	-5,020	-8.7	2,490	-7,510	-130.4	2904.0
East Windsor	8,925	8,513	412	4.8	401	11	1.3	340.7
Enfield	42,695	46,189	-3,494	-7.6	3,216	-6,710	-145.3	1297.7
Farmington	16,407	14,390	2,017	14.0	377	1,640	114.0	577.7
Glastonbury	24,327	20,651	3,676	17.8	1,056	2,620	126.9	470.5
Granby	7,956	6,150	1,806	29.4	606	1,200	195.1	193.6
Hartford	136,392	158,017	-21,625	-13.7	10,944	-32,569	-206.1	7929.8
Hartland	1,416	1,303	113	8.7	70	43	33.0	42.8
Manchester	49,761	47,994	1,767	3.7	1,990	-223	-4.5	1849.9
Marlborough	4,746	2,991	1,755	58.7	570	1,185	396.2	202.8
New Britain	73,840	83,441	-9,601	-11.5	1,747	-11,348	-136.0	5551.9
Newington	28,841	26,037	2,804	10.8	871	1,933	74.2	2184.9
Plainville	16,401	16,733	-332	-2.0	747	-1,079	-64.5	1656.7
Rocky Hill	14,559	11,103	3,456	31.1	517	2,939	264.7	1070.5
Simsbury	21,161	17,475	3,686	21.1	1,001	2,685	153.6	613.4
Southington	36,879	30,946	5,933	19.2	2,392	3,541	114.4	1002.2
South Windsor	17,198	15,533	1,645	10.6	717	928	59.7	614.2
Suffield	9,294	8,634	660	7.6	304	356	41.2	219.2
West Hartford	61,301	68,031	-6,730	-9.9	-2,474	-4,256	-62.6	2799.1
Wethersfield	26,013	26,662	-649	-2.4	-486	-163	-6.1	2081.0
Windsor	25,204	22,502	2,702	12.0	774	1,928	85.7	834.6
Windsor Locks	12,190	15,080	-2,890	-19.2	424	-3,314	-219.8	1369.7

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980 (Continued).

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980	1980
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Migration Rate[1]	Population Density[2]
LITCHFIELD COUNTY Total	156,769	144,091	12,678	8.8	3,651	9,027	62.6	168.5
Barkhamsted	2,935	2,066	869	42.1	162	707	342.5	80.9
Bethlehem	2,573	1,923	650	33.8	35	615	319.8	131.3
Bridgewater	1,563	1,277	286	22.4	1	285	223.2	95.9
Canaan	1,002	931	71	7.6	118	-47	-50.5	30.3
Colebrook	1,221	1,020	201	19.7	-3	204	200.0	37.2
Cornwall	1,288	1,177	111	9.4	-69	180	152.9	27.8
Goshen	1,706	1,351	355	26.3	4	351	259.8	38.2
Harwinton	4,889	4,318	571	13.2	194	377	87.3	156.2
Kent	2,505	1,990	515	25.9	2	513	257.8	51.5
Litchfield	7,605	7,399	206	2.8	24	182	24.6	134.1
Morris	1,899	1,609	290	18.0	40	250	155.3	110.4
New Hartford	4,884	3,970	914	23.0	291	623	156.9	131.3
New Milford	19,420	14,601	4,819	33.0	1,533	3,286	225.1	309.2
Norfolk	2,156	2,073	83	4.0	57	26	12.5	47.3
North Canaan	3,185	3,045	140	4.6	-136	276	90.6	162.5
Plymouth	10,732	10,321	411	4.0	517	-106	-10.2	483.4
Roxbury	1,468	1,238	230	18.6	-17	247	199.5	55.6
Salisbury	3,896	3,573	323	9.0	-267	590	165.1	67.6
Sharon	2,623	2,491	132	5.3	-123	255	102.4	43.9
Thomaston	6,276	6,233	43	0.7	110	-67	-10.7	523.0
Torrington	30,987	31,952	-965	-3.0	14	-979	-30.6	782.5
Warren	1,027	827	200	24.2	20	180	217.6	37.5
Washington	3,657	3,121	536	17.2	-17	553	177.2	96.0
Watertown	19,489	18,610	879	4.7	631	248	13.3	660.6
Winchester	10,841	11,106	-265	-2.4	323	-588	-52.9	335.6
Woodbury	6,942	5,869	1,073	18.3	207	866	147.6	182.2

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980 (Continued).

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980	1980
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Migration Rate[1]	Population Density[2]
NEW HAVEN COUNTY Total	761,337	744,948	16,389	2.2	28,087	-11,698	-15.7	1259.7
Ansonia	19,039	21,160	-2,121	-10.0	725	-2,846	-134.5	3070.8
Beacon Falls	3,995	3,546	449	12.7	294	155	43.7	407.7
Bethany	4,330	3,857	473	12.3	259	214	55.5	209.2
Branford	23,363	20,444	2,919	14.3	687	2,232	109.2	1086.7
Cheshire	21,788	19,051	2,737	14.4	882	1,855	97.4	672.5
Derby	12,346	12,599	-253	-2.0	183	-436	-34.6	2374.2
East Haven	25,028	25,120	-92	-0.4	791	-883	-35.2	2034.8
Guilford	17,375	12,033	5,342	44.4	825	4,517	375.4	372.9
Hamden	51,071	49,357	1,714	3.5	-213	1,927	39.0	1561.8
Madison	14,031	9,768	4,263	43.6	439	3,824	391.5	389.8
Meriden	57,118	55,959	1,159	2.1	2,779	-1,620	-28.9	2410.0
Middlebury	5,995	5,542	453	8.2	14	439	79.2	342.6
Milford	50,898	50,858	40	0.1	2,246	-2,206	-43.4	2282.4
Naugatuck	26,456	23,034	3,422	14.9	1,492	1,930	83.8	1633.1
New Haven	126,109	137,707	-11,598	-8.4	6,351	-17,499	-130.3	6853.8
North Branford	11,554	10,778	776	7.2	853	-77	-7.1	460.3
North Haven	22,080	22,194	-114	-0.5	245	-359	-16.2	1051.4
Orange	13,237	13,254	-287	-2.1	-98	-189	-14.0	760.8
Oxford	6,634	4,480	2,154	48.1	366	1,788	399.1	203.5
Prospect	6,807	6,543	264	4.0	223	41	6.3	479.4
Seymour	13,434	12,776	658	5.2	629	29	2.3	932.9
Southbury	14,156	7,852	6,304	80.3	-281	6,585	83.9	347.8
Wallingford	37,274	35,714	1,560	4.4	1,365	195	5.5	946.0
Waterbury	103,266	108,033	-4,767	-4.4	4,126	-8,893	-82.3	3610.7
West Haven	53,184	52,851	333	0.6	2,364	-2,031	-38.4	5017.4
Wolcott	13,008	12,495	513	4.1	529	-16	-1.3	650.4
Woodbridge	7,761	7,673	88	1.1	13	75	9.8	410.6

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980 (Continued):

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980 Migration Rate[1/]	1980 Population Density[2/]
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration		
NEW LONDON COUNTY								
Total	238,409	230654	7,755	3.4	16,450	-8,695	-37.7	357.2
Bozrah	2,135	2,036	99	4.9	78	21	10.3	108.4
Colchester	7,761	6,603	1,158	17.5	740	418	63.3	162.0
East Lyme	13,870	11,399	2,471	21.7	565	1,906	167.2	420.3
Franklin	1,592	1,356	236	17.4	42	194	143.1	79.6
Griswold	8,967	7,763	1,204	15.5	537	667	85.9	255.5
Groton	41,662	38,244	2,818	7.4	5,266	-2,448	-64.0	1244.3
Lebanon	4,762	3,804	958	25.2	260	698	143.1	86.4
Ledyard	13,735	14,837	-1,102	-7.4	1,774	-2,876	-193.8	349.5
Lisbon	3,279	2,808	471	16.8	180	291	103.6	202.4
Lyme	1,822	1,484	338	22.8	-39	377	254.0	58.4
Montville	16,455	15,662	793	5.1	1,690	-897	-57.3	390.9
New London	28,842	31,630	-2,788	-8.8	1,482	-4,270	-135.0	5341.1
North Stonington	4,219	3,748	471	12.6	149	322	85.9	76.0
Norwich	38,074	41,739	-3,665	-8.8	2,399	-6,064	-145.3	1458.8
Old Lyme	6,159	4,964	1,195	24.1	140	1,055	212.5	256.6
Preston	4,644	3,593	1,051	29.3	129	922	256.6	150.8
Salem	2,335	1,453	882	60.7	116	766	527.2	80.5
Sprague	2,996	2,912	84	2.9	207	-123	-42.2	234.1
Stonington	16,220	15,940	280	1.8	497	-217	-13.6	428.0
Voluntown	1,637	1,452	185	12.7	117	68	46.8	42.0
Waterford	17,843	17,227	616	3.6	121	495	28.7	518.7

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980 (Continued).

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980	1980
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration	Migration Rate[1/]	Population Density[2/]
MIDDLESEX COUNTY								
Total	129,017	115,018	13,999	12.2	5,102	8,897	77.4	347.3
Chester	3,068	2,982	86	2.9	43	43	14.4	201.8
Clinton	11,195	10,267	928	9.0	858	70	6.8	686.8
Cromwell	10,265	7,400	2,865	38.7	309	2,556	345.4	834.6
Deep River	3,994	3,690	304	8.2	127	177	48.0	298.1
Durham	5,143	4,489	654	14.6	339	315	70.2	221.7
East Haddam	5,621	4,676	945	20.2	217	728	155.7	101.1
East Hampton	8,572	7,078	1,494	21.1	539	955	134.9	240.8
Essex	5,078	4,911	167	3.4	-151	318	64.8	483.6
Haddam	6,883	4,934	1,449	29.4	362	1,087	220.3	143.4
Killingworth	3,976	2,435	1,541	63.3	167	1,374	564.3	111.1
Middlefield	3,796	4,132	-336	-8.1	117	-453	-109.6	298.9
Middletown	39,040	36,924	2,116	5.7	1,936	180	4.9	936.2
Old Saybrook	9,287	8,468	819	9.7	-91	910	107.5	611.0
Portland	8,383	8,812	-429	-4.9	233	-662	-75.1	359.8
Westbrook	5,216	3,820	1,396	36.5	97	1,299	340.0	322.0

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980 (Continued).

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980 Migration Rate[1]	1980 Population Density[2]
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration		
TOLLAND COUNTY Total	114,823	103,440	11,383	11.0	8,634	2,749	26.6	276.2
Andover	2,144	2,099	45	2.1	134	-89	-42.4	140.1
Bolton	3,951	3,691	260	7.0	200	60	16.3	259.9
Columbia	3,386	3,129	257	8.2	118	139	44.4	159.7
Coventry	8,895	8,140	755	9.3	758	-3	-0.4	243.0
Ellington	9,711	7.707	2,004	26.0	876	1,128	146.4	283.1
Hebron	5,453	3,815	1,638	42.9	711	927	243.0	146.2
Mansfield	20,634	19,994	640	3.2	560	80	4.0	457.5
Somers	8,473	6,893	1,580	22.9	348	1,232	178.7	297.3
Stafford	9,268	8,680	588	6.8	504	84	9.7	153.4
Tolland	9,694	7,857	1,837	23.4	1,066	771	98.1	244.2
Union	546	443	103	23.3	13	90	203.2	18.7
Vernon	27,974	27,237	737	2.7	2,982	-2,245	-82.4	1528.6
Willington	4,694	3,755	939	25.0	364	575	153.1	135.3

Table 7: Population Change, Connecticut Towns, 1970-1980 (Continued).

	Population Size		1970-1980 Change		1970-1980 Source of Increase		1980 Migration Rate[1]	1980 Population Density[2]
	1980	1970	Number	%	Natural Increase	Net Migration		
WINDHAM COUNTY Total	92,312	84,515	7,797	9.2	4,797	3,000	35.5	179.0
Ashford	3,221	2,156	1,065	49.4	142	923	428.1	80.7
Brooklyn	5,691	4,965	726	14.6	227	499	100.5	198.3
Canterbury	3,426	2,673	753	28.2	243	510	190.8	85.7
Chaplin	1,793	1,621	172	10.6	98	74	45.7	90.6
Eastford	1,028	922	106	11.5	33	73	79.2	36.3
Hampton	1,322	1,129	193	17.1	33	160	141.7	52.5
Killingly	14,519	13,573	946	7.0	918	28	2.1	296.3
Plainfield	12,774	11,957	817	6.8	929	-112	-9.4	300.6
Pomfret	2,775	2,529	246	9.7	94	152	60.1	68.4
Putnam	8,580	8,598	-18	-0.2	180	-198	-23.0	426.9
Scotland	1,072	1,022	50	4.9	17	33	32.3	58.6
Sterling	1,791	1,853	-62	-3.3	104	-166	-89.6	65.9
Thompson	8,141	7,580	561	7.4	312	249	32.8	172.1
Windham	21,062	19,626	1,436	7.3	1,337	99	5.0	754.9
Woodstock	5,117	4,311	806	18.7	130	676	156.8	84.2

1/ Migration rate is the number of migrants per 1,000 population in 1970.
2/ Population density is given in number of persons per square mile of land, excluding inland water areas.

dustry oriented, experienced a net outmigration, probably as a result of the decline of military personnel in the area and fewer defense contracts. Overall the pattern of migration again suggests a wider dispersal of Connecticut's population with larger, more densely populated towns experiencing lower migration or a net outmigration and smaller towns experiencing greater gains from migration during the decade.

Natural increase has also changed over the decade as population characteristics changed as a result of changing birth and death rates and migration. Connecticut's lower rate of natural increase is reflected in the fact that 18 towns actually experienced a natural decrease (deaths exceeded births) during the decade compared to one town during the 1960's. The decline in the number of births in the state and in many towns within the state meant that the effects of migration were even more pronounced.

In summary, both the differential population growth and the trend toward a more widely dispersed population in Connecticut reflect the combined effect of three important factors: the decline in birth rates and the resulting lower rates of natural increase; the reversal of the migration patterns; and the continuing desire to live outside the larger, more densely populated cities. The movement of people toward less densely settled areas has continued through the 1970's and is facilitated by the availability of the automobile and the state's highway system. There is little evidence that the desire to commute longer distances between home and work has declined despite the energy crisis. Industry and other sources of employment may also be responding to the wider dispersal of the state's population by moving out of larger cities in the direction of the population movement.

URBAN-RURAL RESIDENCE

The United States Census Bureau defines the urban population as all persons living in urbanized areas and in all places (towns in Connecticut) of 2500 or more inhabitants. Nearly 79 percent of Connecticut's population were urban residents in 1980 making it one of the most urbanized states in the country.[6]

The population of the United States has tended to become increasingly urban since the first census was taken, increasing from 5.1 percent of the population in 1790 to approximately 74 percent in 1980. Connecticut's population has followed a similar pattern with two exceptions that should be noted. Before the 1820 census, Connecticut had a smaller proportion of its population living in urban areas than the United States as a whole. Since 1830, the state has been consistently more urbanized than the United States as a whole. However, in the decade between 1960 and 1970 there was a decrease in the proportion of Connecticut's population living in urban areas from 78.3 percent in 1960 to 77.4 percent in 1970 while the urban popula-

tion of the United States increased by nearly 4 percent. Since the proportion urban was approximately the same in 1970 as it was in 1950, it seemed possible that there was a leveling off of the urban trend in Connecticut. The slight increase during the 1970's may reflect this trend, since at least 6 towns were added to the urban area of the state simply because their population increase over the decade was large enough to move them into the urban category. Other factors such as the overall pattern of population change, net migration patterns and the population density of Connecticut's towns discussed earlier in this report tend to support the proposition that urbanization in Connecticut is stabilizing or leveling-off.

Table 8 presents data on the urban and rural populations in the state for 1980 and the percentages of the population within the various subareas. Forty-one percent of the urban residents in the state live in its ten largest cities (32.3 percent of the state's total population), each of which has a population of over 50,000 persons. An additional 53.5 percent of the urban population live in the fringe areas of these densely populated areas.

The rural population, those persons living in areas not defined as urban, represents 21.2 percent of the total population. Approximately 8 percent lived in places of 1000 to 2500 population and the remaining 92 percent lived in other rural areas.

Quite different growth patterns were experienced by the various size of place categories in the state (Table 9). Only the urban fringe (11.7 percent increase) and the larger rural towns (42.8 percent increase) increased in population during the 1970's. All three other categories of place-size lost population with central cities experiencing a population loss of nearly 6 percent over the decade. These changes represent a continuation of a trend in which larger urban towns tended to decline during the past decade while larger rural towns tended to grow at a faster rate. The continuation of this trend supports the earlier suggestion that inhabitants are moving out of the more densely populated, larger urban areas into smaller urban and rural areas, thus contributing toward a greater dispersion of the state's population.

STANDARD METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS

The concept of a standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) was first used in the 1950 Census of Population. A standard metropolitan statistical area in Connecticut contains one or more central towns with at least 50,000 inhabitants and the towns surrounding it which are economically and socially linked to the central city(ies). There are 11 SMSA's in Connecticut containing 109 of Connecticut's 169 towns. No new SMSA's were identified in Connecticut between 1970 and 1980 but a total of 21 towns were added to existing SMSA's (Figure 5 and Table 10). Standard Metropolitan Statistical

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Table 8: Urban and Rural Population, Connecticut, 1980.

	Number	Percent	Percent Within
CONNECTICUT	3,107,576	100.0	
Urban	2,449,774	78.8	100.0
Central Cities	1,004,247	32.3	41.0
Urban Fringe	1,310,573	42.2	53.5
Other Urbanized	134,954	4.3	5.5
Rural	657,802	21.2	100.0
Places 1000-2500	53,915	1.8	8.3
Other	602,986	19.4	91.7

Table 9: Changes in the Urban and Rural Population of Connecticut, 1970-1980.

	Population		1970-1980 Change	
	1980	1970	Number	Percent
CONNECTICUT	3,107,576	3,032,217	75,359	2.5
Urban	2,449,774	2,376,079	73,695	3.1
Central City	1,004,247	1,066,941	-62,694	-5.8
Urban Fringe	1,310,573	1,173,838	136,735	11.7
Other Urbanized	134,954	135,300	-346	-2.6
Rural	657,802	655,630	2,172	.3
Places 1000-2500	53,915	37,746	16,169	42.8
Other	603,887	617,884	-13,997	-2.3

Areas are becoming increasingly important in the analysis and use of information collected in the United States and many government agencies use the SMSA-NonSMSA division as an indicator of rural-urban differences in a geographical area. However, anyone who lives in the SMSA's in Connecticut will recognize the fact that some towns within the SMSA's may be more rural in characteristics than towns outside the area.

Table 10 provides data on the SMSA-NonSMSA areas of the state and for the eleven individual SMSA's. It should be noted that the totals for the state include data from the town of Somers which is part of the Springfield, Massachusetts SMSA.[7] Over 88 percent of the state's population live in towns that are part of an SMSA in the state in 1980 as compared to 89 percent of the population living in the corresponding towns in 1970. The slight decrease in the state's SMSA inhabitants is a result of the proportionally greater increase in the population of the nonSMSA areas. Overall SMSA's grew by only 1.8 percent during the 70's compared to a 8.4 percent increase of population in the nonSMSA area. Migration was the most important factor in the growth of both the SMSA and the non SMSA areas. Overall, the SMSA's experienced a net outmigration rate of 26.1 persons per thousand population in 1970 compared to a net inmigration of 47 persons per thousand in the nonSMSA area. The central cities of the state's SMSA's experienced the greatest loss with a net outmigration rate of 107.9 persons per thousand population in 1970. These data support the conclusion that the most densely populated areas are losing population.

Individual SMSA's

Four of Connecticut's eleven SMSA's lost population over the decade. Proportionally these losses ranged from a high of 3.6 percent for the Stamford SMSA to a low of 0.7 percent for the Norwalk SMSA. Danbury experienced by far the greatest population gain, increasing in population by 26.7 percent, while Hartford's gain of 0.8 percent was the lowest. Only the Danbury (26.7 percent), Bristol (5.6 percent), and Waterbury (5.2 percent) SMSA's had decennial increases greater than the increases in the state as a whole.

Only the central cities of Bristol (3.4 percent), Danbury (19.1 percent), and Meriden (2.1 percent), increased in population. The others all *lost* population, ranging from a high loss of 13.7 percent in Hartford to a low of 1.9 percent in Norwalk. In the areas outside the central city, only the Stamford SMSA experienced a slight loss in population of − 1.2 percent. All the other areas outside the central city of the remaining SMSA's gained population during the decade. Thus, the 1970's witnessed a greater dispersion of the population within SMSA's.

Migration again is the primary factor in the population gains or losses of the state's SMSA's and their subregions. All the individual SMSA's experienced natural increases but only Danbury and Waterbury had net inmigrations. Migration rates ranged from 189.5 per thousand 1970 popula-

Continued on page 36

tion in Danbury to – 57.9 per thousand in Stamford. Within the subregions of the individual SMSA's migration rates for central cities ranged from 118.6 in Danbury to – 206.1 in Hartford. Among the regions outside the central cities, only Stamford (– 10.3) and New London-Norwich (– 2.0) experienced net outmigrations while the net inmigration of the other areas ranged from a high of 245.1 in Danbury to a low of 6.3 per thousand 1970 population in Hartford.

In general, there is a relatively clear pattern to the population changes of the individual SMSA's. Most SMSA's either lost population or experienced lower increases than the increases for the state as a whole. Within the individual SMSA's, central cities tended to lose population over the decade while areas outside the central cities gained population largely as a consequence of gains or losses through migration. Only the Danbury, and to a lesser extent, the Bristol SMSA's deviated from these general patterns.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Many policy makers and demographers were surprised by the rather abrupt reversal of long-term trends in the 1970's. More Americans have been moving away from the more densely populated metropolitan areas to medium sized cities and rural areas reversing the long term trend of growth in our larger cities.[8] Birth rates have either continued to decline or have leveled off and natural increases are low. Urbanization may be continuing through the continuing growth of medium and smaller sized cities, but the exodus of people from rural areas to urban centers has dwindled to relatively insignificant numbers and many rural areas are now growing more rapidly than urban areas. All of these trends, which in retrospect may have begun in the late 60's, are now having an impact on policy makers, which suggests some problems as well as some potential benefits.

In Connecticut these trends have led to a decline in the population of most of the state's largest cities and a relatively rapid increase in the population of many medium sized and small sized towns contributing to a wider dispersal of the state's population. Towns such as Hartford, which only a few years ago may have been gearing up to deal with expanding population, are now confronted with a different set of problems as a result of population decline and the resulting changes in the population's characteristics. Other towns such as Southbury, Marlborough and Salem may have a different set of problems because of rapid population growth. For example, the rate of population growth tends to affect the age structure of a popula-

tion. Areas which have more rapid growth tend to have younger populations who have specific needs such as schools, family housing, entry level jobs, and recreation facilities. Areas with declining population tend to have older populations who may have specific needs for health facilities, transportation, and housing and social services for the elderly.

The movement of people out of larger urban areas often coincides with or even precedes the movements of business and industries. The result may be a loss of revenue in the urban centers and the possibilities of increasing traffic congestion, environmental pollution and the need for public services in the receiving areas. Therefore, there is a continuing need to plan for the use of available resources in order to maximize benefits and reduce potential problems which may be in part a result of changes in the size and distribution of the state's population.

FOOTNOTES

[1]All data used in this report were acquired through the Institute for Social Inquiry at The University of Connecticut or abstracted from previous reports cited below. U.S. Bureau of the Census, Summary Tape File 1A was the primary source for 1980.

[2]A number of publications have dealt with this subject and the related movement of people toward rural areas and toward the Sun Belt region. See, for example, Peter A. Morrison and Judith A. Wheeler, *Rural Renaissance in America?* Population Bulletin Vol. 31, No. 3, Population Reference Bureau Inc., October 1976.

[3]Data used in the comparison for 1970, 1960 and 1950 were abstracted from two previous reports: William H. Groff and James C. Reiser, *The Population of Connecticut: A Decade of Change, 1960-1970,* SAES Bulletin No. 422, April 1973; and Robert G. Burnight and Dorothy G. Ingalls, *A Decade of Change: Connecticut 1950-1961,* SAES Bulletin No. 366, December 1961.

[4]For more detail on birth and death rates see: William H. Groff, "Connecticut Has a Slow Rate of Population Growth in 1970-1980," *Milestones,* Spring-Summer, 1982, page 5

[5]The net migration figures presented here and elsewhere in this report are residual figures obtained by subtracting natural increases from the total population increase over the decade between censuses. Statistics for births and deaths were obtained from the Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Connecticut State Department of Health. Statistics for 1979 and 1980 are provisional.

[6]For the definition of urban and rural, and Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, see U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Number of Inhabitants, Connecticut, 1980* (PC80-1-A8), pages A2-A4.

[7]The data for SMSA's in 1970 have been adjusted to include the 21 towns added to these areas in 1980 in order to facilitate comparisons.

[8]For a discussion of these changes, see Morrison and Wheeler, *op. cit.*

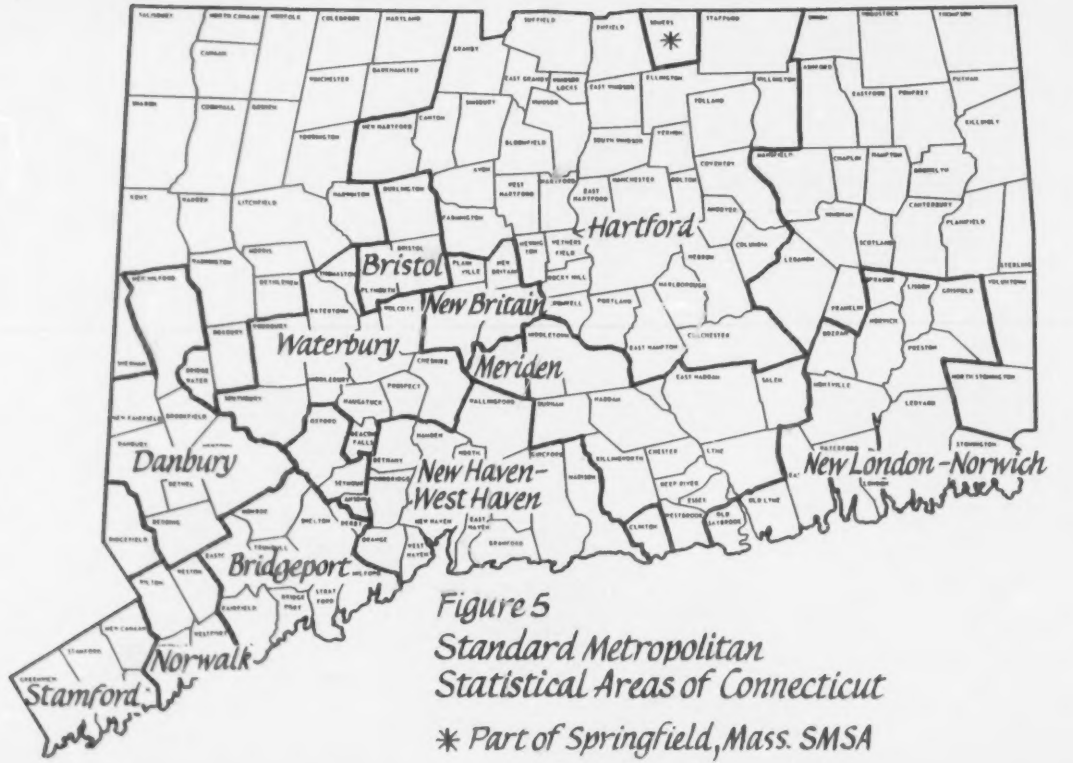

Figure 5
Standard Metropolitan
Statistical Areas of Connecticut

* Part of Springfield, Mass. SMSA

Table 10: Population Change for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Connecticut, 1970-1980.[1]

Area	Population Size 1980	Population Size 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Percent	Source of Increase Natural	Source of Increase Migration	Migration Rate Per 1000 Persons
CONNECTICUT	3,107,576	3,032,217	75,359	2.5	129,991	-54,632	-18.0
SMSA's	2,744,452	2,697,122	47,330	1.8	117,702	-70,372	-26.1
Central Cities	1,057,431	1,120,273	-62,842	-5.6	58,040	-120,882	-107.9
Outside Central Cities	1,687,021	1,576,849	110,172	7.0	59,662	50,510	32.0
Non SMSA	363,124	335,095	28,029	8.4	12,289	15,740	47.0
Bridgeport SMSA	395,455	401,752	-6,297	-1.6	14,805	--21,102	-52.5
Central City	142,546	156,542	-13,996	-8.9	9,686	-23,682	-151.3
Outside Central City	252,909	245,210	7,699	3.1	5,119	2,580	10.5
Towns							
Bridgeport*	142,546	156,542	-13,996	-8.9	9,686	-23,682	-151.3
Derby**	12,346	12,599	-253	-2.0	183	-436	-34.6
Easton	5,962	4,885	1,077	22.0	6	1,071	219.2
Fairfield	54,849	56,487	-1,638	-2.9	17	-1,655	-29.3
Milford	50,898	50,858	40	0.1	2,246	-2,206	-43.4
Monroe	14,010	12,047	1,963	16.3	944	1,019	84.6
Shelton	31,314	27,165	4,149	15.3	1,518	2,631	96.9
Stratford	50,541	49,775	776	1.5	101	665	13.4
Trumbull	32,989	31,394	1,595	5.1	104	1,491	47.5
Bristol SMSA	73,762	69,878	3,884	5.6	4,648	-764	-10.9
Central City	57,370	55,487	1,883	3.4	3,748	-1,865	-33.6
Outside Central City	16,392	14,391	2,001	13.9	900	1,101	76.5
Towns							
Bristol*	57,370	55,487	1,883	3.4	3,748	-1,865	-33.6
Burlington**	5,660	4,070	1,590	39.1	383	1,207	296.6
Plymouth	10,732	10,321	411	4.0	517	-106	-10.2

Table 10: Population Change for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Connecticut, 1970-1980[1/] (Continued):

Area	Population Size 1980	Population Size 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Percent	Source of Increase Natural	Source of Increase Migration	Migration Rate Per 1000 Persons
Danbury SMSA	146,405	115,538	30,867	26.7	8,968	21,899	189.5
Central City	60,470	50,781	9,689	19.1	3,664	6,025	118.6
Outside Central City	85,935	64,757	21,178	32.7	5,304	15,874	245.1
Towns							
Bethel	16,004	10,945	5,059	46.2	1,097	3,962	362.0
Brookfield	12,872	9,688	3,184	32.9	760	2,424	250.2
Danbury*	60,470	50,781	9,689	19.1	3,664	6,025	118.6
New Fairfield	11,260	6,991	4,269	61.1	608	3,661	523.7
New Milford**	19,420	14,601	4,819	33.0	1,533	3,286	225.1
Newtown**	19,107	15,942	2,165	12.8	1,006	1,159	68.4
Redding**	7,272	5,590	1,682	30.1	300	1,382	247.2
Hartford SMSA	726,114	720,581	5,533	0.8	34,578	-29,045	-40.3
Central City	136,392	158,017	-21,625	-13.7	10,944	-32,569	-206.1
Outside Central City	589,722	562,564	27,158	4.8	23,634	3,524	6.3
Towns							
Andover**	2,144	2,099	45	2.1	134	-89	-42.4
Avon	11,201	8,352	2,849	34.1	193	2,656	318.0
Bloomfield	18,608	18,301	307	1.7	436	-129	-7.0
Bolton	3,951	3,691	260	7.0	200	60	16.3
Canton	7,635	6,868	767	11.2	520	247	36.0
Colchester**	7,761	6,603	1,158	17.5	740	418	63.3
Columbia**	3,386	3,129	257	8.2	118	139	44.4
Coventry	8,895	8,140	755	9.3	758	-3	-0.4
Cromwell	10,265	7,400	2,865	38.7	309	2,556	345.4
East Granby	4,102	3,532	570	16.1	306	264	74.7
East Hampton**	8,572	7,078	1,494	21.1	539	955	134.9
East Hartford	52,563	57,583	-5,020	-8.7	2,490	-7,510	-130.4
East Windsor	8,925	8,513	412	4.8	401	11	1.3
Ellington	9,711	7,707	2,004	26.0	876	1,128	146.4
Enfield	42,695	46,189	-3,494	-7.6	3,216	-6,710	-145.3
Farmington	16,407	14,390	2,017	14.0	377	1,640	114.0

Table 10: Population Change for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Connecticut, 1970-1980[1]/ (Continued):

Area	Population Size 1980	Population Size 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Percent	Source of Increase Natural	Source of Increase Migration	Migration Rate Per 1000 Persons
Hartford SMSA (Cont'd)							
Glastonbury	24,327	20,651	3,676	17.8	1,056	2,620	126.9
Granby	7,956	6,150	1,806	29.4	606	1,200	195.1
Hartford*	136,392	158,017	-21,625	-13.7	10,944	-32,569	-206.1
Hebron**	5,453	3,815	1,638	42.9	711	927	243.0
Manchester	49,761	47,994	1,767	3.7	1,990	-223	-4.5
Marlborough**	4,746	2,991	1,755	58.7	570	1,185	396.2
New Hartford	4,884	3,970	914	23.0	291	623	156.9
Newington	28,841	26,037	2,804	10.8	871	1,933	74.2
Portland	8,383	8,812	-429	-4.9	233	-662	-75.1
Rocky Hill	14,559	11,103	3,456	31.1	517	2,939	264.7
Simsbury	21,161	17,475	3,686	21.1	1,001	2,685	153.6
South Windsor	17,198	15,553	1,645	10.6	717	928	59.7
Stafford**	9,268	8,680	588	6.8	504	84	9.7
Suffield	9,294	8,634	660	7.6	304	356	41.2
Tolland**	9,694	7,857	1,837	23.4	1,066	771	98.1
Vernon	27,974	27,237	737	2.7	2,982	-2,245	-82.4
West Hartford	61,301	68,031	-6,730	-9.9	-2,474	-4,256	-62.6
Wethersfield	26,013	26,662	-649	-2.4	-486	-163	-6.1
Willington**	4,694	3,755	939	25.0	364	575	153.1
Windsor Locks	12,190	15,080	-2,890	-19.2	424	-3,314	-219.8
Windsor	25,204	22,502	2,702	12.0	774	1,928	85.7
Meriden SMSA	57,118	55,959	1,159	2.1	2,779	-1,620	-28.9
Central City	57,118	55,959	1,159	2.1	2,779	-1,620	-28.9
Outside Central City	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Towns							
Meriden	57,118	55,959	1,159	2.1	2,779	-1,620	-28.9

Table 10: Population Change for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Connecticut, 1970-1980[1/] (Continued):

Area	Population Size 1980	Population Size 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Percent	Source of Increase Natural	Source of Increase Migration	Migration Rate Per 1000 Persons
New Britain SMSA	142,241	145,269	-3,028	-2.1	4,991	-8,019	-55.2
Central City	73,840	83,441	-9,601	-11.5	1,747	-11,348	-136.0
Outside Central City	68,401	61,828	6,573	10.6	3,244	3,329	53.8
Towns							
Berlin	15,121	14,149	972	6.9	105	867	61.3
New Britain*	73,840	83,441	-9,601	-11.5	1,747	-11,348	-136.0
Plainville	16,401	16,733	-332	-2.0	747	-1,079	-64.5
Southington	36,879	30,946	5,933	19.2	2,392	3,541	114.4
New Haven SMSA	417,592	411,287	6,305	1.5	14,739	-8,434	-20.5
Central City	179,293	190,558	-11,265	-5.9	8,715	-19,980	-104.8
Outside Central City	238,299	220,729	17,570	8.0	6,024	11,546	52.3
Towns							
Bethany	4,330	3,857	473	12.3	259	214	55.5
Branford	23,363	20,444	2,919	14.3	687	2,232	109.2
Clinton**	11,195	10,267	928	9.0	858	70	6.8
East Haven	25,028	25,120	-92	-0.4	791	-883	-35.2
Guilford	17,375	12,033	5,342	44.4	825	4,517	375.4
Hamden	51,071	49,357	1,714	3.5	-213	1,927	39.0
Madison**	14,031	9,768	4,263	43.6	439	3,824	391.5
New Haven*	126,109	137,707	-11,598	-8.4	6,351	-17,949	-130.3
North Branford	11,554	10,778	776	7.2	853	-77	-7.1
North Haven	22,080	22,194	-114	-0.5	245	-359	-16.2
Orange	13,237	13,524	-287	-2.1	-98	-189	-14.0
Wallingford**	37,274	35,714	1,560	4.4	1,365	195	5.5
West Haven*	53,184	52,851	333	0.6	2,364	-2,031	-38.4
Woodbridge	7,761	7,673	88	1.1	13	75	9.8

Table 10: Population Change for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Connecticut, 1970-1980[1/] (Continued):

Area	Population Size 1980	Population Size 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Percent	Source of Increase Natural	Source of Increase Migration	Migration Rate Per 1000 Persons
New London/Norwich SMSA	223,568	219,222	4,346	2.0	14,974	-10,628	-48.5
Central City	66,916	73,369	-6,453	-8.8	3,881	-10,334	-140.8
Outside Central City	156,652	145,853	10,799	7.4	11,093	-294	-2.0
Towns							
Bozrah**	2,135	2,036	99	4.9	78	21	10.3
East Lyme	13,870	11,399	2,471	21.7	565	1,906	167.2
Griswold	8,967	7,763	1,204	15.5	537	667	85.9
Groton	41,062	38,244	2,818	7.4	5,266	-2,448	-64.0
Ledyard	13,735	14,837	-1,102	-7.4	1,774	-2,876	-193.8
Lisbon	3,279	2,808	471	16.8	180	291	103.6
Montville	16,455	15,662	793	5.1	1,690	-897	-57.3
New London*	28,842	31,630	-2,738	-8.8	1,482	-4,270	-135.0
Norwich*	38,074	41,739	-3,665	-8.8	2,399	-6,064	-145.3
Old Lyme	6,159	4,964	1,195	24.1	140	1,055	212.5
Old Saybrook**	9,287	8,468	819	9.7	-91	910	107.5
Preston	4,644	3,593	1,051	29.3	129	922	256.6
Sprague	2,996	2,912	84	2.9	207	-123	-42.2
Stonington	16,220	15,940	280	1.8	497	-217	-13.6
Waterford	17,843	17,227	616	3.6	121	495	28.7
Norwalk SMSA	126,692	127,595	-903	-0.7	4,194	-5,097	-39.9
Central City	77,767	79,288	-1,521	-1.9	4,164	-5,685	-71.7
Outside Central City	48,925	48,307	618	1.3	30	588	12.2
Towns							
Norwalk*	77,767	79,288	-1,521	-1.9	4,164	-5,685	-71.7
Weston**	8,284	7,417	867	11.7	136	731	98.6
Westport	25,290	27,318	-2,028	-7.4	-123	-1,905	-69.7
Wilton	15,351	13,572	1,779	13.1	17	1,762	129.8

Table 10: Population Change for Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Connecticut, 1970-1980[1/] (Continued):

Area	Population Size 1980	Population Size 1970	Population Change Number	Population Change Percent	Source of Increase Natural	Source of Increase Migration	Migration Rate Per 1000 Persons
Stamford SMSA	198,854	206,340	-7,486	-3.6	4,451	-11,937	-57.9
Central City	102,453	108,798	-6,345	-5.8	4,586	-10,931	-100.4
Outside Central City	96,401	97,542	-1,141	-1.2	-135	-1,006	-10.3
Towns							
Darien	18,892	20,336	-1,444	-7.1	82	-1,526	-75.0
Greenwich	59,578	59,755	-177	-0.3	-199	22	0.4
New Canaan	17,931	17,451	480	2.8	-18	498	28.5
Stamford*	102,453	108,798	-6,345	-5.8	4,586	-10,931	-100.4
Waterbury SMSA	228,178	216,808	11,370	5.2	8,227	3,143	14.7
Central City	103,266	108,033	-4,767	-4.4	4,126	-8,893	-82.3
Outside Central City	124,912	108,775	16,137	14.8	4,101	12,036	110.7
Towns							
Beacon Falls	3,995	3,546	449	12.7	294	155	43.7
Cheshire	21,788	19,051	2,737	14.4	882	1,855	97.4
Middlebury	5,995	5,542	453	8.2	14	439	79.2
Naugatuck	26,456	23,034	3,422	14.9	1,492	1,930	83.8
Prospect	6,807	6,543	264	4.0	223	41	6.3
Southbury**	14,156	7,852	6,304	80.3	-281	6,585	83.9
Thomaston	6,276	6,233	43	0.7	110	-67	-10.7
Waterbury*	103,266	108,033	-4,767	-4.4	4,126	-8,893	-82.3
Watertown	19,489	18,610	879	4.7	631	248	13.3
Wolcott	13,008	12,495	513	4.1	529	-16	-1.3
Woodbury	6,942	5,869	1,073	18.3	207	866	147.6

1/ Data for total SMSA's includes data for the town of Somers which is part of the Springfield SMSA. All data for 1970 has been revised to conform to the definitions of SMSA's in 1980.

* Represent central cities of the SMSA.
** Represent new towns added to SMSA's in 1980.